

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media have a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

2. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the first side portion decreases as the first side portion is traversed from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

3. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the second side portion decreases as the second side portion is traversed from the second edge of the strip of vouchers towards the center of the strip of vouchers.

4. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

5. The tear bar of claim 1 further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.

6. The tear bar of claim 5 wherein the center portion comprises a roughened surface.

7. The tear bar of claim 5 wherein the center portion comprises a rounded surface.

8. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed shaft.

9. The tear bar of claim 8 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially lateral cross-section.

10. The tear bar of claim 8 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section.

11. A tear bar system comprising:

(A) a strip of media, the media comprising:

- (a) a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion;
- (b) a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material;

(B) a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to at least one bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media; and
- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to at least one bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

12. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the media comprises at least a first and second bridge of connecting material, wherein the first bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the media and the second bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the media.

13. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the media comprises at least six bridges of connecting material, wherein three of the bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the media and three bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the media.

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14. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the tear bar further comprises a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion of the tear bar being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to at least one bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

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15. The tear bar system of claim 14 wherein the media comprises at least a first, second, and third bridge of connecting material, wherein the first bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the media, the second bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the media, and the third bridge of connecting material is positioned in the center portion of the media.

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16. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the media comprises at least nine bridges of connecting material, wherein three of the bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the media, three bridges of connecting material

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are positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the media, and three bridges of connecting material are positioned in the center portion of the media.

17. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of perforations are arranged substantially in a line.

18. The tear bar system of claim 11 wherein the media comprises corner treatments adjacent to the plurality of perforations.

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